

takes to complete the mission. NCOs have been celebrated for decorated service in military events ranging from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to charges on Omaha Beach and battles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Today I wish to celebrate the strength of our Nation and the strength of our Army by saluting our Non Commissioned Officer Corps and the Army's soldiers, families and civilians by wishing them a happy 234th Birthday!

CONDEMNING SHOOTING AT U.S. HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 529 and with deep regret that this measure is necessary. I am saddened deeply by the tragic events that took place yesterday at the United States Holocaust Museum. Especially upsetting was the loss of Mr. Stephen Tyrone Johns, who loyally served and protected those visiting the Holocaust Museum for six years. Mr. Johns was known as a warm, friendly individual who was well-respected by his colleagues. My sincerest condolences and my most heartfelt prayers are with his family and friends, whose lives have been devastated so unfairly.

While yesterday's violence appears to have been the act of single individual, similar actions rooted in hatred and intolerance are not unknown to our society or our local communities. I am distressed by a recent report from the Anti-Defamation League, which indicated that my own state of New Jersey experiences the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents in the country. The persistence of these unacceptable acts throughout our nation indicates that the sinister notions of anti-Semitism, racism, and intolerance continue to plague our society. The Holocaust Museum stands as a testament to the tragedy and suffering that can occur when hatred goes unchallenged and turns to violence. It is also a place to reflect upon tremendous bravery and heroism. Yesterday's events, and the sacrifices made by Mr. Johns and his loved ones, are a profound reminder that we cannot be complacent. We must remain vigilant against prejudice and work together to promote peace and tolerance in our hometowns, across the nation, and around the world.

Finally, I would note that yesterday's events bring to mind the stirring call to action by President Obama at the Holocaust Days of Remembrance Ceremony in April, and I ask that they be printed in the RECORD in their entirety.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY, UNITED STATES CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, DC.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you. Please be seated. Thank you very much. To Sara Bloomfield, for the wonderful introduction and the outstanding work she's doing; to Fred Zeidman; Joel Geiderman; Mr. Wiesel—thank you for your wisdom and your witness; Speaker Nancy Pelosi; Senator Dick Durbin; members of Congress; our good friend the Ambassador of Israel; members of the United

States Holocaust Memorial Council; and most importantly, the survivors and rescuers and their families who are here today. It is a great honor for me to be here, and I'm grateful that I have the opportunity to address you briefly.

We gather today to mourn the loss of so many lives, and celebrate those who saved them; honor those who survived, and contemplate the obligations of the living.

It is the grimmest of ironies that one of the most savage, barbaric acts of evil in history began in one of the most modernized societies of its time, where so many markers of human progress became tools of human depravity: science that can heal used to kill; education that can enlighten used to rationalize away basic moral impulses; the bureaucracy that sustains modern life used as the machinery of mass death—a ruthless, chillingly efficient system where many were responsible for the killing, but few got actual blood on their hands.

While the uniqueness of the Holocaust in scope and in method is truly astounding, the Holocaust was driven by many of the same forces that have fueled atrocities throughout history: the scapegoating that leads to hatred and blinds us to our common humanity; the justifications that replace conscience and allow cruelty to spread; the willingness of those who are neither perpetrators nor victims to accept the assigned role of bystander, believing the lie that, good people are ever powerless or alone, the fiction that we do not have a choice.

But while we are here today to bear witness to the human capacity to destroy, we are also here to pay tribute to the human impulse to save. In the moral accounting of the Holocaust, as we reckon with numbers like 6 million, as we recall the horror of numbers etched into arms, we also factor in numbers like these: 7,200—the number of Danish Jews ferried to safety, many of whom later returned home to find the neighbors who rescued them had also faithfully tended their homes and businesses and belongings while they were gone.

We remember the number five—the five righteous men and women who join us today from Poland. We are awed by your acts of courage and conscience. And your presence today compels each of us to ask ourselves whether we would have done what you did. We can only hope that the answer is yes.

We also remember the number 5,000—the number of Jews rescued by the villagers of Le Chambon, France—one life saved for each of its 5,000 residents. Not a single Jew who came there was turned away, or turned in. But it was not until decades later that the villagers spoke of what they had done—and even then, only reluctantly. The author of a book on the rescue found that those he interviewed were baffled by his interest. "How could you call us 'good'?" they said. "We were doing what had to be done."

That is the question of the righteous—those who would do extraordinary good at extraordinary risk not for affirmation or acclaim or to advance their own interests, but because it is what must be done. They remind us that no one is born a savior or a murderer—these are choices we each have the power to make. They teach us that no one can make us into bystanders without our consent, and that we are never truly alone—that if we have the courage to heed that "still, small voice" within us, we can form a minyan for righteousness that can span a village, even a nation.

Their legacy is our inheritance. And the question is, how do we honor and preserve it? How do we ensure that "never again" isn't an empty slogan, or merely an aspiration, but also a call to action?

I believe we start by doing what we are doing today—by bearing witness, by fighting

the silence that is evil's greatest co-conspirator.

In the face of horrors that defy comprehension, the impulse to silence is understandable. My own great uncle returned from his service in World War II in a state of shock, saying little, alone with painful memories that would not leave his head. He went up into the attic, according to the stories that I've heard, and wouldn't come down for six months. He was one of the liberators—someone who at a very tender age had seen the unimaginable. And so some of the liberators who are here today honor us with their presence—all of whom we honor for their extraordinary service. My great uncle was part of the 89th Infantry Division—the first Americans to reach a Nazi concentration camp. And they liberated Ohrdruf, part of Buchenwald, where tens of thousands had perished.

The story goes that when the Americans marched in, they discovered the starving survivors and the piles of dead bodies. And General Eisenhower made a decision. He ordered Germans from the nearby town to tour the camp, so they could see what had been done in their name. And he ordered American troops to tour the camp, so they could see the evil they were fighting against. Then he invited congressmen and journalists to bear witness. And he ordered that photographs and films be made. Some of us have seen those same images, whether in the Holocaust Museum or when I visited Yad Vashem, and they never leave you. Eisenhower said that he wanted "to be in a position to give firsthand evidence of these things, if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to propaganda."

Eisenhower understood the danger of silence. He understood that if no one knew what had happened, that would be yet another atrocity—and it would be the perpetrators' ultimate triumph.

What Eisenhower did to record these crimes for history is what we are doing here today. That's what Elie Wiesel and the survivors we honor here do by fighting to make their memories part of our collective memory. That's what the Holocaust Museum does every day on our National Mall, the place where we display for the world our triumphs and failures and the lessons we've learned from our history. It's the very opposite of silence.

But we must also remember that bearing witness is not the end of our obligation—it's just the beginning. We know that evil has yet to run its course on Earth. We've seen it in this century in the mass graves and the ashes of villages burned to the ground, and children used as soldiers and rape used as a weapon of war. To this day, there are those who insist the Holocaust never happened; who perpetrate every form of intolerance—racism and anti-Semitism, homophobia, xenophobia, sexism, and more—hatred that degrades its victim and diminishes us all.

Today, and every day, we have an opportunity, as well as an obligation, to confront these scourges—to fight the impulse to turn the channel when we see images that disturb us, or wrap ourselves in the false comfort that others' sufferings are not our own. Instead we have the opportunity to make a habit of empathy; to recognize ourselves in each other; to commit ourselves to resisting injustice and intolerance and indifference in whatever forms they may take—whether confronting those who tell lies about history, or doing everything we can to prevent and end atrocities like those that took place in Rwanda, those taking place in Darfur. That is my commitment as President. I hope that is yours, as well.

It will not be easy. At times, fulfilling these obligations require self-reflection. But

in the final analysis, I believe history gives us cause for hope rather than despair—the hope of a chosen people who have overcome oppression since the days of Exodus; of the nation of Israel rising from the destruction of the Holocaust; of the strong and enduring bonds between our nations.

It is the hope, too, of those who not only survived, but chose to live, teaching us the meaning of courage and resilience and dignity. I'm thinking today of a study conducted after the war that found that Holocaust survivors living in America actually had a higher birthrate than American Jews. What a stunning act of faith—to bring a child in a world that has shown you so much cruelty; to believe that no matter what you have endured, or how much you have lost, in the end, you have a duty to life.

We find cause for hope as well in Protestant and Catholic children attending school together in Northern Ireland; in Hutus and Tutsis living side by side, forgiving neighbors who have done the unforgivable; in a movement to save Darfur that has thousands of high school and college chapters in 25 countries, and brought 70,000 people to the Washington Mall—people of every age and faith and background and race united in common cause with suffering brothers and sisters halfway around the world.

Those numbers can be our future—our fellow citizens of the world showing us how to make the journey from oppression to survival, from witness to resistance, and ultimately to reconciliation. That is what we mean when we say “never again.”

So today, during this season when we celebrate liberation, resurrection, and the possibility of redemption, may each of us renew our resolve to do what must be done. And may we strive each day, both individually and as a nation, to be among the righteous.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, due to other Congressional business, I unfortunately missed a recorded vote on the House floor on Thursday, June 11, 2009.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote No. 334.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF GEORGE CARPENTER OF WILMETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilmette Police Chief George Carpenter, one of the finest public servants in my congressional district. Next month, Chief Carpenter will retire after 35 years of service to the people of Wilmette, serving as Chief of Police for the last 18 years.

The police chiefs of the 10th District work closely together to address their shared concerns. I've had the good fortune to work with them and their departments to help combat

gangs, drugs and weapons that make their way into the suburbs, and the respect that Chief Carpenter has among his peers is testament to what kind of a leader he is.

As chief, he spearheaded education reforms in the Wilmette Police Department and leaves a legacy of forward-thinking, well-trained officers who will continue to serve the Village. He steadily increased recruitment of women, minorities, and those with foreign-language ability to diversify and bring new skills to law enforcement. These policies have resulted in increased approval ratings of the performance of the Wilmette Police Department, reflecting a high level of public trust.

He helped form task forces to counteract the growing sophistication of criminals in our area which created a more united regional police force. His dedication to quality and service has been a great example for other communities in the 10th District. This is particularly crucial as Illinois now has the most gang members per capita in the nation. I know we are better prepared to meet this emerging threat because of Chief Carpenter's service.

On behalf of the people of the 10th Congressional District, I thank Wilmette Police Chief George Carpenter for his outstanding public service and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Our community is safer and stronger because of his leadership.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2410) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, to modernize the foreign Service, and for other purposes:

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this essential amendment, recognizing Israel's right to defend itself from an imminent nuclear or military threat from Iran and other countries and organizations.

As Iran forges ahead with its quest for a nuclear weapons capability, it is vital for Congress to recognize Israel's urgent need to deal with the looming threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.

Like all sovereign nations, Israel has not only a right, but moreover, an obligation, to ensure the safety and security of her citizens.

An imminent nuclear or military threat from Iran would certainly endanger her citizens, and that is why, in the strongest of terms, I support my colleague's vital amendment.

According to the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, Iran has sped up its production of nuclear fuel and has increased its number of installed centrifuges to 7,200—more than enough to make fuel for two nuclear bombs per year.

If Iran possessed nuclear weapons, it could share this technology with terrorist groups to carry out attacks against both Israel and the United States.

Let me be very clear. A nuclear-armed Iran would certainly constitute an existential threat

to Israel, but would not only threaten Israel. As the leading state sponsor of international terrorism, a nuclear-armed Iran would pose unacceptable threats to global security.

This rogue nation's possession of a nuclear weapon would likely lead to nuclear proliferation elsewhere in the region and around the globe, while fundamentally altering the strategic balance of the Middle East, and endangering U.S. national security interests.

Undoubtedly, now is the time for us all to stand together in support of Israel and global peace and security. I urge my colleagues to support this critical amendment, and pray that Iran suspends its nuclear program, and starts working towards peace instead of terror.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for the rollcall vote on H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. Had I been present, I would have voted for H.R. 1256.

THE MIRANDA WARNING

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, there are forty-four words that anyone who has ever watched a police show is no doubt familiar with:

“You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney present during questioning. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you.”

The Miranda Warning, which reminds suspects in police custody of their rights under the Constitution, has become a staple of our criminal justice system, and is a vanguard of Fifth Amendment protection. This warning, however, was never meant to be applied to terrorists captured on the battlefield who are endangering American interests and American lives.

Recently, my colleague from Michigan, Mr. ROGERS, returned from Afghanistan, where he learned that the FBI may be reading Miranda rights to suspected terrorists at U.S. military detention facilities. If this report is true, it is deeply troubling and a variety of questions come to mind.

First, if FBI agents are granting enemy combatants a right to silence and counsel, how then are operatives expected to accomplish their goal of obtaining actionable intelligence in the field? Second, how many detainees have been read the Miranda Warning? Third, on what date was this policy established? Fourth, what are the factors which influence the FBI's decision about when to grant Miranda rights?

For obvious reasons, a suspect who has availed himself of silence and counsel is far less likely to surrender valuable intelligence